Implementation of ESI Scheme

†1597. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there are many hurdles in the working of ESI scheme and its working is not smooth; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The ESI Scheme provides for medical care and payment of cash benefits in the contingencies of sickness, maternity and employment injury. While cash benefits are being administered by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), the provision of medical care except in Delhi and NOIDA is being administered by the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. Administration of cash benefits through the ESIC is generally satisfactory. However, on the medical care side, there have been sporadic complaints about non-availability of doctors, shortage of medicines, equipments, dressings etc. in the ESI hospitals/dispensaries. Such complaints as and when received, are forwarded to the concerned State Government for taking remedial measures. In order to bring improvements in the working of the ESI hospitals/dispensaries, the ESIC has recently formulated an Action Plan and forwarded the same to the State Governments for implementation in consultation with the ESIC. The Action Plan includes, *inter-alia*, provision of modern equipments in hospitals, establishment of Regional trauma centres, establishment of super-speciality services, blood banks, cancer prevention centres, development of indigenous system of medicine, provision of necessary equipments in dispensaries etc. For improving resource position of the State Governments in administration of ESI medical care the ceiling on expenditure on medical care has been enhanced for Rs. 500/- per insured person per annum to Rs. 600/- per insured person per annum with effect from 1.4.1999. Tie-up arrangements with reputed medical institutions have been made and a revolving fund has been constituted to grant immediate advances for the beneficiaries for enabling them to avail super of specialised treatment.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.